

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 OMB-01 EUR-25

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 000906

R 121012Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5023

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON MRS. MEIR'S GOLAN HEIGHTS STATEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 781

1. JERUSALEM ARABIC DAILY EL QUDS FEB 10 REPORTED CRITICALLY ON MRS. MEIR'S FEB 8 STATEMENT ON GOLAN HEIGHTS CITED REFTEL, "EVEN IF IT WAS INTENDED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION" OR SHE " DOES NOT MEAN WHAT SHE SAYS." PAPER BELIEVES THAT STATEMENT "WHICH DEPICTS INTENTIONS OF ISRAEL IN FIRST PLACE AND THOSE OF US AS WELL," CONFIRMS VIEW OF THOSE IN ARAB WORLD WHO MAINTAIN THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT PEACE AND SUPPORTS THEIR CONTENTION THAT PEACE EFFORTS SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED.

2. ON SAME DAY SECOND ARABIC DAILY AL SHAAB CHARACTERIZED MRS. MEIR'S STATEMENT AS BOOST FOR MORALE OF ISRAELI SETTLERS ON ONE HAND AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIANS ON OTHER. PAPER CONSIDERS ISRAEL NOT INTERESTED IN REALIZATION

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OF JUST AND DURABLE PEACE.

3. COMMENT: WE THINK MOST ARABS LIKELY TO SEE STATEMENT AS
EVIDENCE THAT ISRAELIS NOT SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN PEACE.
STATEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNFORTUNATE AT ANY TIME, PARTICULARLY
SINCE ARABS TEND ASSOCIATE US WITH ISRAEL IN SUCH MATTERS, BUT
AS EMBASSY TEL AVIV POINTS OUT MRS. MEIR'S TIMING IN
THIS CASE COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN WORSE.

DAY

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